



Date: June 29, 2016

Request for Comments

Brushy Mountain Project

On January 21, 2016, the Pleasant Hill District of the Ozark National Forest initiated the Brushy Mountain project with a outreach letter inviting the public to help develop a proposal for the project area. Then in February a scoping letter was mailed out and posted to the Forest website for comment on the proposed actions listed in the letter. The interdisciplinary team developed and analyzed two alternatives (Alternative 1-no action and Alternative 2-proposed action) for vegetation, recreation, road, and wildlife treatments to improve forest health and enhance watershed conditions. The team's analysis is documented in the attached Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), which is enclosed for your review and comment.

I have identified Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative. This alternative includes: Pine Seedtree (45 acres), Pine thinning (2,580 acres), Hardwood Shelterwood w/ Reserves (52 acres), Hardwood Thinning (282 acres), prescribed fire/Hazardous Fuels Reduction/Site Preparation/Wildlife burning, Non-native Invasive Treatment (NNIS) (Not to exceed 500 acres annually), Wildlife Openings (New)(19 acres), Wildlife Opening (Reconstruction) (41 acres), Large Woody Debris (LWD) placement (9.4 miles) Road Reconstruction (8.8 miles), Road Maintenance (33.6 miles), Temporary Road (4.4 miles), Road Decommissioning (18.6 miles), and installation of 12 gates.

The Brushy Mountain project is subject to administrative review under 36 CFR 218 Project-Level Pre-decisional Administrative Review Process, Parts A and B. Specific written comments about this project, as defined by 36 CFR 218.2 should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. It is the responsibility of all individuals and organizations to ensure that their comments are received in a timely matter. The designated 30 days to provide comments for the Brushy Mountain Draft EA will start June 30, 2016 until July 29, 2016 or 30 days after receiving this letter with a copy of the Draft EA.

An objection period, if required, will follow the regulation found in 36 CFR 218.7. For objection eligibility (36 CFR 218.5), only those who have submitted timely, specific written comments during any designated opportunity for public comment may file an objection. Issues to be raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after a designated opportunity to comment (36 CFR 218.8(c)). Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection.

Comments about this project will be accepted at any time; however, in order to be eligible to file an objection, the comments must be received within the 30 day designated timeframe listed above.

Your comments need to be as specific as possible and contain the following:



- (1) Your name, address, and (if possible) telephone number;
- (2) Title of the document (Brushy Mountain Environmental Assessment) on which comment is being submitted; and
- (3) Specific facts or comments along with supporting reasons that you believe I should consider in reaching a final decision.

Our mailing address is: US Forest Service, 2591 Hwy 21 N, Clarksville, AR. 72830. You may also call or stop by the office, (business hours are from 8:00am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday). Electronic comments must be submitted in a common digital format to *comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-pleasanthill@fs.fed.us*. This Draft EA along with additional information on Brushy Mountain Project is also available on the webpage: www.fs.fed.us/r8/osfnf/. If you have questions on this EA, please call Matt Pfeifler at 479-754-2864.

Sincerely,

PAT KOWALEWYCZ
District Ranger
enclosure